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Tim Loughton MP
House of Commons
London
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Christine Gilbert
Her Majesty's Chief
Inspector

Dear Mr. Loughton

PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION NUMBER 307484: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families, how many reviews Ofsted has undertaken in relation to the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service (Cafcass) in each Cafcass region in the last 12 months?

Your recent parliamentary question has been passed to me, as Her Majesty's Chief Inspector, for a response.

In April 2007 the duty to inspect Cafcass passed from Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Court Administration to Ofsted. From April 2007 to mid 2008, Ofsted undertook three inspections based on the old Cafcass structure (co-terminous with the nine Government Office regions).

In December 2008 Ofsted began piloting a new framework for the inspection of Cafcass. The framework is based on inspection of a Cafcass service area, the Cafcass operational business unit, of which there are 21 across England. Ofsted will inspect all the Cafcass service areas by August 2011. As at December 2009, Ofsted has reported on seven service areas, and will report on an eighth inspection in early January 2010.

A copy of this reply has been sent to Rt Hon Dawn Primarolo MP, Minister of State for Children, Young People and Families, and will be placed in the library of both Houses.

Yours sincerely
Christine Gilbert

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